(c) and (d) C-DOT has been periodically reviewing the compensation package for the staff. Some benefits to the staff within the existing guidelines are also under consideration of the Government.

Non-Paymeat of special pay to Assistant Engineers posted in U.P Circle

860. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleas ed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the assis tant engineers posted in the office of the Chief General Manager Telecommunica tions, U.P. Circle are not getting special pay while their counterparts in Punjab and Haryana Circle are getting it; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this discrepancy ?

THE MINISTEF OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b) All the Assistant Engineers in the office of Chief General Manager, U.P. and Punjab Telecom Circles arc not getting special pay while the Assistant Engineers who are designated as Assistant Directors and post in the office of Chief General Manager Haryana Telecom. Circle are getting special pay.

Supply of switching equipment to DOT

861. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleas ed to state:

(a) whether it is true that the Department of Telecommunications has accepted the offer of some foreign companies to lower their prices in the supply of switching equipments though they quoted higher prices, in their tenders;

(b) what are the reasons for rejecting lowest quotation and the highest bidders were called for negotiations; and

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the Hindu dated the 3rd April, 1993 on this matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Yes. Sir.

Telephone Connections in Aodbra Pradesh

862. DR. NARREDDY THULASI-REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNI-CATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of people in Andhra Pradesh who are in the waiting list for new telephone connections; and

(b) by which this waiting list is likely to be cleared.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The waiting list as on 31st March, 1993 is 1,69,208.

(b) Telephone to the waiting applicants are proposed to be provided progressively " during the 8th Plan (92—97) which en-visages :

— Provision of Telephones practically on demand in Tribal and Rural areas.

— Waiting period of Telephone connec-tion not to exceed two yean for large Telephone Systems.

Expansion plan are being drawn accord-ingly.

डाकघरों में विभागीय टिकट बिक्रेताओं को प्रोत्साहन

863. श्री कामेश्वर पासवान:—क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या डाकघरों के काउंटरों से डाक-टिकटों और डाक संबंधी लेखन सामग्री की बिक्री के लिए

निर्धारित सीमा से अधिक बिक्री करने वाले डाक-टिकट विक्रेताओं/विभागेत्तर डाक टिकट विक्रेताओं को 2 प्रतिशत की दर से प्रोत्साहन राशी प्रदान की जाती है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि यह प्रोत्साहन राशि ऐसे कर्मचारियों को मंहगाई भत्ते सहित मूल वेतन के 33.3 प्रतिशत तक दी जाती है जबकि जो पोस्टमैन सहिपोस्ट की डाक को बांटते हैं, उन्हें प्रति मद 50 पैसे की दर से अप्रतिबंधित प्रोत्साहन राशि दी जाती है; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार विभागीय और विभागेत्तर डाक टिकट विक्रेताओं को बिना कोई सीमा निर्धारित किए 2 प्रतिशत की दर से प्रोत्साहन राशि देने का विचार रखती है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री श्री सुखराम

(क) जी हां, तथापि, डाक टिकटों/डाक लेखन सामग्री की 30 रुपए से अधिक की एकमुश्त बिक्री के लिए प्रोत्साहन राशि का भुगतान नहीं किया जाता ।

(ख) डाक-टिकट विक्रेताओं के लिए प्रोत्साहन राशि परिलब्धियां का 33⅓ प्रतिशत तक सीमित होती है। स्पीड पोस्ट मदों के वितरण के मामले में वितरण स्टाफ को 50 पैसे प्रति मद की दर से प्रोत्साहन राशि का भुगतान किया जाता है । इस योजना में शर्त यह है कि सभी मदों का वितरण ठीक प्रकार से होना चाहिए । जहां वितरण कार्यनिष्पादन 100 प्रतिशत से कम हो जाता है किन्तु, 98 प्रतिशत से कम नहीं होता, वहां प्रति मद केवल 25 पैसे प्रोत्साहन राशि देने की अनुमति है ।

(ग) जी नहीं । ये दो भिन्न-भिन्न योजनाएं हैं और प्रत्येक की अपनी-अपनी शर्तें हैं ।

Village Panchayats Connected *to District* Headquarters through Telephones *Is* M.P.

864. SHRI SHIVPRASAD CHAN-PURIA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of village pan-cbayats *in.* Madhya Pradesh which have been directly connected with district Head-quarters through telephone services;

(b) whether he is convinced that the tele-phone calls can be made from these village panchayats to the district headquarters whenever required;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that neither the telephone calls from villages or for villages are responded nor the required telephone cumbers are connected by the Telephone Exchange in the district headquarters; and

(e) what action has been taken or are. proposed to be taken by Government against the employees responsible for it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The details are being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Question does cot arise in view of (b) above.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Fire in Telephone Exchange Area

865. SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the damage caused by fire last year in the telephone exchange in Agra, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted into the matter;

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the com-munication system has been disturbed due to the fire; and